

COE /Rec/EO-T/TK/25 /2024

Major General Ilmar Tamm Commander of Estonian Defence League

Warsaw March 2024

Dear General Tamm,

I am writing to kindly enquire about the opportunity for the students of the College of Europe in Natolin, to visit the Estonian Defence League and to learn, on-site, about the League's mission and on the role of territorial defence forces in the whole-of-government approaches to national defence and security.

We were highly appreciative of the contribution of the Estonian Defence League to the academic programme of our past study trips, including last year when we had the privilege of meeting with Col Rebo and LtCol Probal. The discussions we had with the League's COSs have always been intellectually stimulating and enriching for our students. We would be delighted if an experience analogous to those from previous years could also be offered to our current student group from the Madeleine Albright promotion.

As you are aware, the College of Europe, with its two campuses (Bruges founded in 1949 and Natolin in 1992), is an institute of post-graduate European Studies. At its Natolin campus, the College offers a one-year interdisciplinary Master's programme. The curriculum ranges from EU politics, law, economics and international relations to European history and the EU's relations with its neighbours. This year's promotion is composed of 121 students from 36 countries.

As we are keen on keeping the Baltic states and security-related topics in the focus of our academic activities, the Natolin campus is preparing a study visit to the wider Nordic-Baltic region from 22 to 26 April 2024 during which we are going to visit Tartu, Tallinn, and Helsinki. The overarching theme of this study visit is Europe at War: Russia's War of Aggression in Ukraine and the State of Defence, Deterrence and (In) Security in the Nordic-Baltic Area.

We would be greatly honoured if officers from the Estonian Defence League could meet our group, comprising 55 students and academics, on **Wednesday**, **24 April 2024 at 9:00-10:30 AM** (Tallinn time) to discuss the League's mission and activities and, thereby, address the following broad topic: "Territorial Defence, Resilience, and Whole-of-Government (WoG) Approaches to National Security."

We would be happy to provide more information about the academic programme of the study visit if required. Please do not hesitate to contact myself at ewa.osniecka@coleurope.eu or Dr Andriy Tyushka (for organisational matters) at andriv.tyushka@coleurope.eu or at +48-22-54.59.466.

I hope very much that our students will have the pleasure of benefiting from your input to the programme of this study trip.

Yours sincerely,

Ewa Ośniecka-Tarnecka

Vice-Rector of the College of Europe

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